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**Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council**



**REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1953

**L. A. M. JOHNSTON,**  
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.




**Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council**

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Public Health Department,

Houghton-le-Spring.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith present my Seventeenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics in the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring for the year 1953. Incorporated therein is the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

It is pleasing to note that the progress of house building by the Council by direct labour continued to make satisfactory progress and a number of houses were erected by private enterprise for owner-occupiers without affecting the number erected by the Council.

I would take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the whole-hearted support of the Council in every endeavour to improve the conditions of the district and prevent disease, and for the loyal co-operation of my colleagues.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.

## Public Health Officers of the Authority.

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The Staff consists of:—

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.** Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H, (St. Andrews).

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.** Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

**TWO ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTORS.** Whole time. Both hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

**SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER.** Whole time. Fellow of Surveyors' Institute and holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for Hetton and Washington Urban Districts and Assistant Medical Officer for Durham County Council.

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## Other Health Services.

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Domestic Helps
Home Nursing	Health Visitors
Vaccination	Child Welfare and Maternity
Immunisation against	School Medical
Diphtheria	Welfare of the Aged.
	Welfare of the blind

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

**FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS.** Are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.



VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for carrying out routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cows.



## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in acres—5,026 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population—mid 1953—30,890.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Books—9,250.

Rateable Value, £124,658.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £471.

Whilst as for many years the chief industry in the Area is that of Coal Mining there are various subsidiary industries, the chief being agriculture. and the district retains its reputation of a comparatively large number of excellent dairy farms. Out of a total number of 23 farms 8 are producing Tuberculin Tested Milk. All other milk produced in the district is heat treated by the Houghton Dairymen's Association before being retailed.

The importance of the production of pure milk and its effect on the Public Health cannot be over emphasised.

General trading and house erection have provided employment for a considerable number of the populace not engaged in mining or agriculture.

Four factories have been erected on a new trading estate at Fence Houses and preparations are well in hand for further development when materials and economic conditions permit.

The four completed are being utilised for the manufacture of (a) suitcases, trunks, etc.; (b) gowns; (c) woodworking machinery; and (d) electrical apparatus—recorder clocks, instruments, etc. A fifth firm is working in Fence Houses Miners' Hall producing gowns and anxiously awaiting the opportunity to occupy a fifth factory when same is available.

## Vital Statistics

### Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1953 was 590 as compared with 579 for 1952.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	576	290	286	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated populat'n 19.10
	Illegitimate	14	7	7	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 15.5 for 1953.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births, (2) the number of males born, (3) the number of females born, (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1953 as compared with the years 1944-1953.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1944	561	296	265	20.70	240
1945	499	251	248	18.28	189
1946	636	318	318	22.32	298
1947	642	324	318	22.24	339
1948	635	342	293	21.63	313
1949	577	288	289	19.32	229
1950	612	335	277	20.11	266
1951	608	286	322	19.87	268
1952	579	300	279	12.21	249
1953	590	297	293	19.10	253



Still Births—During 1953 there were 6 still births in the district.

		Total Male Female			
Still Births					
}	Legitimate	6	5	1	} giving a Rate of 10.07 per 1,000 total (live and still births) births
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.19 in the district as compared with 0.35 for England and Wales.

### Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 337 residents in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District died, being 175 males and 162 females.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1953 there were 231 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 117 males and 114 females. Of these 2 males and 4 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 115 males and 110 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 60 males and 52 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 337, being 175 males and 162 females.

The death rate corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and all ages was 10.90, the population at mid-year 1953, being estimated at 30,890. That for 1952 was 11.21.

### Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1953, 17 children died under the age of five years, as against 27 in 1952. Therefore 5.04 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under five years of age, as against 7.75 per cent. in 1952.

### Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 112 residents who died outside the district, 2 died in private houses, 1 an accident, 1 in an ambulance and 2 committed suicide by drowning and the remaining 106 died in Institutions as follows:—

General Hosiptal, Sunderland	...	...	...	50
Monkwearmouth Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	1
Royal Infirmary, Sunderland	...	...	...	19
Maternity Hospital, Sunderlaand	..	...	...	7
Children's Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	1
Infectious Diseases Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	1
Dryburn Hospital, Durham	...	...	...	2
Bables' Hospital, Leazes Terrace, Newcastle	...	...	...	1
General Hospital, Ryhope	...	...	...	9
Dunston Hill, Dunston	...	...	...	2
Queen Elizabeth, Gateshead	...	...	...	2
Havelock Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	1
Seaham Hall, Seaham	...	...	...	1
Richard Murray Hospital, Consett	...	...	...	1
Thorpe Maternity Hospital, Easington	...	...	...	2
R.V.I. Newcastle	...	...	...	1
General Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	1
County Hospital, York	...	...	...	1
General Hospital, Chester-le-Street	...	...	...	3

3 residents died in Heath House, therefore, of the total of 337 deaths of residents, 109 or 32.64 per cent. occurred in Institutions.

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list.)**

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis or from other puerperal causes.

**Comparison between Houghton-le-Spring and England and Wales.**

	Houghton- le-Spring	England & Wales
Deaths Rate per 1,000 (live and still)		
births from Pureperal Sepsis ...	0.00	0.10
Deaths Rate per 1,000 (live and still)		
births from Other Puerperal Causes	0.00	0.18

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

16 children died during 1953, before attaining the age of 1 year, being 10 legitimate males and 6 legitimate females equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 27.12 (per 1,000 live births), being the lowest infantile mortality rate ever recorded.

During 1952 24 children died before attaining one year of age.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1943-1953.

		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1943	...	57.6	...	50.85	...	41.7
1944	...	57.04	...	58.38	...	30.33
1945	...	54.10	...	54.73	...	41.66
1946	...	44.02	...	42.55	...	40.00
1947	...	38.94	...	37.33	...	76.92
1948	...	50.39	...	50.00	...	71.43
1949	...	53.91	...	53.47	...	62.5
1950	...	39.21	...	38.14	...	111.11
1951	...	29.60	...	27.96	...	111.11
1952	...	41.45	...	41.45	...	00.00
1953	...	27.12	...	27.12	...	00.00

Of the 16 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributable to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 8 cases, giving a percentage of 50.00.

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths, under 1 year, during 1953, also the number of deaths at various ages, viz: 4 under one day, 3 between one and two days, 2 between two and three days, 2 between three and four days, 1 between five and six days, 1 between twenty-one and twenty-eight days, 1 between twenty-eight days and two months, 1 between five and six months, 1 between six and seven months and 1 between ten and eleven months.

**Neo-Natal Mortality.**

During 1953 there were:—

4	children	who	died	during	the	first	24	hours	of	life.
2	„		died	aged	1-2	days.				
2	„		„	„	2-3	„				
2	„		„	„	3-4	„				
1	child		„	„	5-6	„				
1	„		„	„	21-28	„				
1	„		„	„	1-2	months.				
1	„		„	„	5-6	„				
1	„		„	„	6-7	„				
1	„		„	„	10-11	„				

Causes of Death of Infants under One Year:—

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Atelectasis	...	...	...	..	...	...	3
Meningitis (non-Tubercular)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	..	...	...	...	1

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 337, 4.74 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age, 11 or 68.75 per cent. were under one week and 12 or 75.00 per cent. under four weeks of age.

Nett Live Births—Legitimate				Illegitimate			
		Males	Females	Males	Females		
Corrected as per Registrar General	...	290	286	7	7	=	590
Nett Deaths	..	10	6	—	—	=	16

During 1953 there were 287 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners (9 of the deceased so certified having post mortems performed on them) 12 deaths were certified by the Coroner after post mortems and inquest, 17 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortems), and 21 were uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward		1st Qtr.		2nd Qtr.		3rd Qtr.		4th Qtr.		Total
Houghton	...	29	...	25	...	28	...	38	...	120
Penshaw	...	31	...	18	...	23	...	17	...	89
Newbottle	...	10	...	16	...	9	...	16	...	51
Fence Houses		13	...	10	...	8	...	16	...	47
Herrington	...	10	...	5	...	8	...	7	...	30
Totals	...	93	...	74	...	76	...	94	...	337

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year		1-2 years.		2-3 year		3 4 years.		4-5 years.		5-15 years.		15-25 years.		25-45 years.		45-65 years.		65-75 years.		75 years & over.		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Houghton	4	3													4	5	17	11	24	14	19	19	68	52
Penshaw	1	1			1					1		2	1	1	6	10	9	14	9	12	21	42	47	
Newbottle	2													2	1	10	5	8	12	5	6	27	24	
F. Houses	3	1								1			1	1		4	3	4	12	8	9	21	26	
Herrington		1								1			1		1	7	2	3	5	6	3	17	13	
Total	10	6			1					3		2	3	8	13	48	30	53	52	50	58	175	162	

During 1953, there was one death from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).



Comparative Table:

Death Rates in Houghton-le-Spring per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.											
Ho—Houghton-le-Spring; EW—England and Wales.											
Year	All Causes										
	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea	under 2 yrs	Total	
1943	338	0	0	0	1	0	4	8	2	15	12.77
1944	321	0	0	0	0	4	5	5	1	10	11.84
1945	310	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	11.35
1946	338	0	1	0	1	1	8	1	1	12	11.86
1947	303	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	10.49
1948	323	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	4	8	11.03
1949	348	0	1	0	1	0	7	4	4	13	11.7
1950	346	0	2	0	2	0	2	3	3	9	11.4
1951	340	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	2	13	11.11
1952	348	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	1	6	11.21
1953	337	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	3	10	10.90

\* Not stated.

### Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1953.

Causes of Death.				Male		Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	...	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	...	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	...	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	...	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	...	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	...	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	...	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	...	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1	...	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	8	...	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	9	...	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	...	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	...	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	14	...	14
15.	Leukaemia aleukaemia	...	...	—	...	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	...	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	36	...	18
18.	Coronary disease angina	...	...	19	...	22
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	5	...	8
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	20	...	29
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	7	...	9
22.	Influenza	...	...	2	...	5
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	5	...	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	14	...	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	—	...	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	...	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	3	...	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	...	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	3	...	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	...	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	...	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	14	...	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	...	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	3	...	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	3	...	1
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	—	...	—
All Causes				175	...	162

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1953 for England and Wales, 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London. 160 Smaller Towns including Houghton-le-Spring. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000), compared with those for Houghton-le-Spring.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and  
Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1953.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England & Wales	160 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resd't populat'ns 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Houghton-le-Spring Urban District
BIRTHS—	Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
Live ... ..	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	19.10
Still ... ..	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.19
DEATHS—	22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	21.0(a)	19.3(a)
All Causes ... ..	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	10.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Tuberculosis ... ..	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.22
Influenza ... ..	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.22
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ... ..	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.32
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Meningococcal infection ...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	0.51
Whooping Cough ... ..	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	2.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ... ..	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.06
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles ... ..	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	6.66
Pneumonia ... ..	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	0.61
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic ... ..	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06
Non-paralytic .. ..	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Food Poisoning ... ..	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.03
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)	0.00
DEATHS—	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
All Causes under 1 yr. age	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	27.12
Enteritis and diarrhoea	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.09
under 2 years of age					

(a) Per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.



## Causes of Death.

### (a) Tuberculosis:

There were 7 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1953, being equivalent to a death rate, per 1,000 population, of 0.22 from the pulmonary form, 0.00 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:—

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring	No. of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring
1943	6	.557	.22	0	.111	.00
1944	13	.524	.44	5	.103	.18
1945	14	.519	.51	5	.100	.18
1946	8	not available	.28	2	not available	.07
1947	12	.47	.41	4	.079	.13
1948	15	.44	.51	1	.067	.03
1949	12	.40	.40	2	.054	.06
1950	15	.32	.40	1	.043	.03
1951	4	.27	.13	1	.041	.03
1952	4	.212	.12	0	.028	.00
1953	7	.179	.22	0	.022	.00

### (b) Heart Disease:

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area, 103 persons, being 44 males, and 59 females, were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 30.56% of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.33 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Table:—

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
			M	F	All Causes	Heart Disease	
1943	388	90	51	39	12.77	3.40	26.63
1944	321	77	38	39	11.84	2.84	23.99
1945	310	98	52	46	11.35	3.22	31.61
1946	338	92	47	45	11.86	3.22	27.22
1947	303	87	45	42	10.49	3.01	28.71
1948	323	110	60	50	11.00	3.61	34.05
1949	348	106	56	50	11.70	3.56	30.40
1950	346	107	54	53	11.4	3.52	30.92
1951	340	97	48	49	11.11	3.17	28.53
1952	348	104	54	50	11.21	3.36	29.88
1953	337	103	44	59	10.90	3.33	30.56

**Cancer.**

59 deaths—being 31 males and 28 females, were due to cancer according to statistics supplied by the Registrar - General. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 1.91 per 1,000 population or 17.5% of the total deaths. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 1.99.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in Houghton-le-Spring and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1943-1953.

Year	Number of Deaths				Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male		Female	Total	
1943	20	...	20	40	1.51
1944	17	...	22	39	1.44
1945	24	...	31	55	2.01
1946	27	...	21	48	1.68
1947	23	...	18	41	1.42
1948	20	...	21	41	1.39
1949	27	...	23	50	1.68
1950	28	...	18	46	1.51
1951	44	...	15	59	1.89
1952	30	...	24	54	1.74
1953	31	...	28	59	1.91

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided. Cancer in the early stages practically never causes pain.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the larger clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Of the 59 deaths due to cancer 10 were to cancer of stomach and duodenum (a site usually often attacked) and 10 to cancer of the lung.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1953 from cancer as compiled from local returns.



	Site		Males—Ages	Females—Ages
Stomach	...	...	60, 61, 62, 64, 72, 72, 73, 79.	71, 75.
Bladder	...	...		60.
Ovaries	...	...		52.
Rectum	...	...	64, 84.	55, 89.
Lungs	...	...	48, 48, 59, 63, 64, 64, 69, 70, 72.	32.
Colon	...	...	79.	47, 65, 72, 81.
Breast	...	...		45, 54, 55, 64, 68.
Pancreas	...	...		61.
Uterus	...	...		57, 64, 47, 63, 66, 67, 71, 76.
Prostate	...	...	60, 60, 63, 64, 70, 74, 77.	
Liver	...	...	55, 78, 81.	39, 44.
Penis	...	...	53.	
Brain	...	...		44.

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area

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### Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(see commencement of this report.)

The National Health Service Act which came into force on 5th July, 1948, made a certain difference in the administration of Health Services in County Districts. The chief points so far as this area is concerned are the transfer of (a) the Isolation Hospital to the Northern Regional Hospital Board, (b) the ambulance service to the County Council as the Local Health Authority, (c) the entire responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation to the County Council. The County Council are also now responsible for the provision of nursing in the home. District nurses are employed by the County Council, but there is a very close liaison between the old County Nursing Association and the County Council in providing this service.

### Ambulance Facilities

The National Coal Board continued to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Other cases of accident or illness have been the responsibility of the County and the headquarters for this ambulance region of the County—covering Houghton-le-Spring, Hetton-le-Hole, West Rainton and the part of Sunderland Rural District south of the Wear—were placed at the Ambulance Station at Herrington Burn. The number of patients carried and the mileage covered has increased considerably every month. The increase has largely been on the number of sitting cases, quite a number of whom could, and previously did, travel by ordinary conveyance, and there are occasional gross abuses of the Service which are difficult to prevent.

### Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.

Diphtheria Immunisation of children under five years of age has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1st January, 1946, and from that date the work was done under the

auspices of the County District Councils, the County Council paying the cost thereof. The County District Councils remained responsible for the treatment of the 5-15 years group until 5th July, 1948, when that also passed to the County Council.

Whilst appreciating that this change was necessary we feel that some of the local enthusiasm has been lost and that there is probably increased apathy on the part of the public who know diphtheria is not so common as ten years ago and that deaths therefrom are not so numerous. This can be maintained only by having a large number, preferably 75 per cent, of the children under 15 years properly protected.

A considerable amount of periodical propaganda is necessary, more especially in the case of school children who have not been previously treated, and emphasising the importance of a reinforcing dose where a child has had previous treatment.

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the four quarters of 1953, also the number of reinforcing injections for which records were received.

		Under 5		5-14		Total	Reinforcement	
1st Quarter	...	70	...	—	...	70	...	30
2nd Quarter	...	96	...	2	...	98	...	30
3rd Quarter	...	41	...	—	...	41	...	22
4th Quarter	...	53	...	3	...	56	...	15
<hr/>								
		260	...	5	...	265	...	97
<hr/>								

Vaccination, which is no longer compulsory, has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1930 through its "Public Vaccinators." Previous to 5th July, 1948, there was no exact record of the work done.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated and revaccinated, for which records were received, during the four quarters of 1953.

## VACCINATED.

## REVACCINATED.

1953	Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15 years & over	Total	Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15 years & over	Total
1st Qtr. ...	20	2	—	1	23	—	—	—	—	—
2nd Qtr....	17	—	—	3	20	—	—	1	1	2
3rd Qtr....	9	—	—	3	12	—	—	—	2	2
4th Qtr....	19	—	—	1	20	—	1	—	2	3
	65	2	—	8	75	—	1	1	5	7

This total cannot be regarded as satisfactory for in these days of air travel there is a constant danger of passengers arriving from the East in the incubation stage of smallpox and spreading the disease before they know that they are suffering from it.

## VITAL STATISTICS

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### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM DURHAM COUNTY REPORT OF CENSUS, 1951.

#### Population and Intercensal Changes.

The total population in the County of Durham at the 1951 Census was 1,463,868, indicating a net decrease over the whole period since the 1931 Census of about 22,000 population.

In the pre-war period, 1931-39, the population of the County as a whole decreased by 3.2 per cent in contrast to an increase of 3.7 per cent in England and Wales. The decrease was not evenly spread over the County and there was only a very small decrease in the group of areas containing Sunderland.

The second period, mid-1939 to mid-1941, showed a rate of decrease of civilian population only slightly larger than that for England and Wales, indicating a little loss of population by evacuation or migration movements, except in the Tyneside district and the area around and including Sunderland where the reduction exceeded 10 per cent.

The third period, from 1941 to 1948, covers the remainder of the war period and the three years following. The civil population in all areas appears to have reached its lowest ebb in 1943 and there was some increase in 1944. As demobilisation proceeded, the total population of Durham approached the numbers of 1939, but it did not pass this figure until 1948. The increases were not evenly spread throughout the County. The Tyneside area as a whole and those areas grouped with Sunderland had not even in 1951 regained the population size of 1939.

The last period, 1948 to 1951, covers the return to more normal conditions, but it is too short to provide any reliable indication as to rates of population change. There has been little alteration in the population of the County during this period.

#### Dwellings.

Dwellings in the County of Durham, in the occupation of private households and vacant number, in 1951, 411,802, being an increase of 82,677 (25.1 per cent) over the 1931 figure, the majority of new dwellings having been erected before the war.

During the period 1931 to 1951 the increase in the relative numbers of 4 and 5 roomed dwellings is marked; an experience similar to that throughout the country. This change is largely due to increased building of 4 and 5 roomed dwellings, the number



of which is 30 per cent greater than pre-1931 and now represent more than half the dwellings in the County. It is interesting to note that size distribution of dwellings in Durham County were 37 per cent of 1 to 3 rooms and only 9 per cent with 6 or more rooms and is quite different from that of the country as a whole.

It was discovered that 96 per cent of households in the County were occupied by one household only and that 92 per cent of households occupied the whole of a dwelling. These figures compared with 93 and 85 respectively for England and Wales. Less than two-thirds of dwellings occupied by only one household, but nearly all dwellings occupied by more than one household, contain at least 4 rooms. 60 per cent of the units of occupation in shared dwellings occupied by individual households are of one or two rooms. Although only about one-fifth of these sharing households occupy a single room, the number so housed represents more than three-quarters of all the one-room households in the County.

### **Private Households.**

The average number of persons per private household in the County is now 3.40 as compared with 4.04 in 1931.

Size distribution of households in Durham is not unlike that for England and Wales, nearly half being of 3 or 4 persons, but in Durham there are relatively more households of 5 persons and over and fewer of 1 or 2 persons, a natural result of the birth rate being higher in the County than for the country.

The total number of dwellings increased during the period under consideration by 25 per cent, while the total number of households increased by only 17 per cent, indicating that the provision of new dwellings was not only keeping pace with the increase in numbers of households but was enabling more households to occupy whole dwellings instead of sharing.

The average density of occupation of dwellings, i.e. number of persons per room, in Durham is considerably higher than in the country as a whole but has been reduced considerably since 1931.

It has been shown by the Census that 23 per cent of the households in the County now live at a density of one person per room and 49 per cent live at lower densities. These figures compare with 20 per cent and 32 per cent respectively in 1931. Only 11 per cent of all the household occupations of the County contain 3 or more rooms in excess of persons. It would appear that the possibilities of increasing the number of separate units of accommodation by conversion or adaptations of comparatively small dwellings and large households are much smaller than in many other counties.

## Household Arrangements.

In the census return information was asked for each household regarding piped water supply, kitchen sink, water closet and fixed bath. It would appear that 49 per cent of all private households in the County have exclusive use of all these conveniences and a further 21 per cent have all except a fixed bath; figures which compare with 53 per cent and 20 per cent for England and Wales as a whole.

## Piped Water.

18 per cent of households in the County were reported as being without the exclusive use of a piped water supply and nearly two-thirds of these households were in undivided dwellings. Figures compare with 17 per cent for England and Wales. Areas in the County with the highest percentages of households in undivided occupations entirely without water supplies were:—Weardale R.D. (26); Sunderland R.D. (23); Sunderland C.B. (21); Jarrow (20); and Hartlepool M.B., South Shields, Darlington R.D., Boldon, Hebburn, Seaham, Houghton-le-Spring, West Hartlepool C.B. (with between 9 and 14 per cent).

## Cooking Stoves.

5 per cent of the households in the County are without exclusive use of cooking stoves. Among households sharing dwellings the proportions sharing a stove were below 25 per cent in Sunderland C.B. and R.D. and in Seaham.

## Kitchen Sink.

19 per cent of households in the County were without exclusive use of a kitchen sink, comparing with 13 per cent for England and Wales as a whole where nearly half of the cases were of households in shared dwellings, but in Durham two-thirds were households in undivided occupation entirely without a sink. One-sixth were households in shared dwellings entirely without a sink, leaving only one-sixth sharing a sink. Among households in undivided dwellings proportions entirely without sinks were highest in the following areas:—Tow Law (45%), Spennymoor (36%), Brandon and Byshottles (34%), Weardale R.D. (32%), Crook and Willington (31%) and Hetton (30%).

## Water Closets.

19 per cent of households in the County were reported as being without exclusive use of a water closet. Corresponding figure for the country was 21 per cent. As in the case of piped water supply nearly two-thirds of these households were in undivided occupations. Varied conditions are illustrated by the figures relating to households in undivided occupations; e.g. in the



West Durham coalfield area, Tow Law had 61 per cent whilst conditions in the Tyneside area, in the urban areas on Tees-side, in the Hartlepoons, Sunderland, Seaham and in Durham M.B. conditions were good in the sense that fewer than 2 per cent of households in undivided occupation were entirely without water closets.

### **Fixed Baths.**

49 per cent of households in the County were without fixed baths.

### **Heads of Households.**

The proportion of households with married heads is slightly higher in the County than in England and Wales as a whole. Where households have married heads nearly half have heads aged 40 to 59, and two-thirds of the remainder have heads under 40.

### **Housing in Local Authority Areas.**

Most of the substantial losses in population in the 1931 to 1951 period have been in the Tyneside industrial areas and in the coalfield areas. They have been accompanied by very substantial reductions in the density of occupation of dwellings; the areas with the highest percentages of population housed at an average of over 2 persons per room in 1931 were on Tyneside (except for Sunderland). They were Hebburn (34%), Jarrow (33), Sunderland (29), Gateshead (29), Felling (27), and South Shields (26). Four of these still ranked among the six highest in the County in this respect in 1951, being Gateshead and Bishop Auckland (each 9), and Hebburn, Jarrow, Sunderland and Tow Law (each with 8).

Seaham, Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington showed higher proportions of households sharing dwellings than anywhere else in the County except Sunderland. Sunderland is quite exceptional in having 31 per cent of its households living in shared dwellings in spite of a 37 per cent increase in numbers of dwellings in the 1931-51 period.

## **SEX, AGE AND MARITAL CONDITION**

### **Distribution by Age.**

The two main factors determining the age pattern of the 1951 population of the County are the decline in fertility and the heavy outward migration. The population has been ageing generally throughout the country, and Durham is no exception although it still has a younger age structure than England and Wales as a whole. It is evident that after taking mortality into account the deficiency is more marked at younger ages, more than half of it relating to persons who were below age 35 in 1951. It is clear

that the County has lost by migration considerable numbers of young or middle-aged adults and their children.

Sex and age distributions are also affected appreciably by the war deaths of two world wars, although that of the recent war is less apparent, partly because the total numbers were much smaller (300,00 for England and Wales) and partly because the female population in the young adult age groups in 1951 also suffered loss by the post-war emigration of English war brides of Commonwealth and Allied servicemen. Another factor affecting appreciably the Census record of males in the age group 15-24, both in 1931 and 1951, was the absence of men serving in the armed forces abroad. At the 1931 Census the population of Durham was noticeably younger in age structure than that of England and Wales, there being a comparative excess of children and a deficiency of older people. In 1951 the difference in age structure was less marked but the County still shows higher proportions in the age groups under 35 than the country as a whole.

Comparison between 1951 and 1931 illustrates the "ageing" trend that has been noted in similar reports of previous intercensal periods. In Durham 9.4 per cent of persons were aged 65 and over in 1951 compared with 5.6 per cent in 1931.

### **Excess of Females over Males.**

For the County of Durham the number of females per 1,000 males in the population of all ages was 1,039, as compared with 999 in 1921 and 1,000 in 1931. The ratio for the whole population is lower than that for the population of marriage age because the preponderance of male births provides an excess of males at ages under 15.

### **Marital Condition.**

Of persons aged 15 and over in Durham, nearly two-thirds are married, the proportion being slightly lower for females because there are more females than males in the population. The higher mortality rates of males as compared with those of females give rise to sex differences in the proportions widowed, there being 52 widowed men per 1,000 men aged 15 and over compared with 124 for women.

There is a marked tendency for people to marry earlier than formerly. At age 20-24 in Durham, there were 235 males per 1,000 married in 1951 as compared with only 155 in 1931 and 489 females per 1,000 compared with 341 in 1931. At ages 15 and over the proportions married have increased for men from 578 to 661 per 1,000 and for women from 586 to 637.

The reader is requested to refer to the tables at the end of this report.





**Table A.—POPULATION 1921-1951 and Intercensal Variations.**

Administrative Area	POPULATION							Increase or Deerease (-)					Net Popu- of 1 Add- Deduc- in Int- Pe- 1931
	1921	1931			1951			1921-1931	1931-1951				
	Persons	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Per cent.	Amount	Per cent.			
										Total	By B'ths & D'ths	Bal- ance	
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	
DURHAM (A.C. with associated C.B.s) ...	1,479,033	1,486,175	742,923	743,252	1,463,868	718,056	745,812	0.5	-22,307	- 1.5	11.5	-13.0	-
Urban Districts													
Boldon ... ..	15,846	16,900	8,353	8,547	16,698	8,042	8,656	6.7	- 202	- 1.2	7.7	- 8.9	New
Hetton ... ..	19,960	20,560	10,575	9,985	18,504	9,186	9,318	3.0	- 2,056	-10.0	14.7	-24.7	2,
Houghton-le-Spring ...	30,301	30,241	15,329	14,912	30,676	15,097	15,579	- 0.2	435	1.4	13.5	-12.1	19,
Seaham ... ..	23,441	27,325	14,167	13,158	26,142	13,169	12,973	16.6	- 1,183	- 4.3	17.8	-22.1	New
Washington ... ..	17,721	17,704	9,045	8,659	17,799	8,866	8,933	- 0.1	95	0.5	14.7	-14.2	
Rural Districts													
Sunderland ... ..	24,320	24,552	12,444	12,108	25,293	12,419	12,874	1.0	741	3.0	12.7	- 9.7	2,



Table B.—Acreage, Population, Private Households &amp; Dwellings.

Administrative Area	Average (Land and Inland Water)	POPULATION					PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS & DWELLINGS, 1951						
		1931	1951				Private Households	Population in Private Households	Structurally separate Dwellings Occupied	Rooms Occupied	Persons per Room	Density of Occupation more than 2 persons per room	
		Persons	Persons	Males	Females	Persons per Acre							
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	
DURHAM (A.C. with associated C.B.s) ...	649,433	1,486,175	1,463,858	718,056	745,812	2.3	422,153	1,435,467	403,414	1,597,878	0.90	5.5	
Boldon U.D. & C.P.	7,640	16,900	16,698	8,042	8,656	2.2	5,145	16,497	5,064	20,945	0.79	2.1	
Wards :													
Boldon Colliery ...	2,305	—	2,590	1,274	1,316	1.1	807	2,590	798	2,606	0.99	4.6	
Cleodon ...	1,600	—	1,873	857	1,016	1.2	579	1,767	579	2,906	0.61	0.5	
East Boldon ...	1,127	2,436	2,443	1,113	1,330	2.2	789	2,408	760	3,718	0.65	0.5	
New Town (Boldon Col.)	360	3,903	3,431	1,714	1,717	9.5	996	3,431	991	3,485	0.98	2.7	
West Boldon ...	699	1,238	1,464	713	751	2.1	455	1,412	438	2,012	0.70	2.0	
Hetton U.D. & C.P.	4,551	20,560	18,504	9,186	9,318	4.1	5,237	18,493	5,164	19,309	0.96	5.3	
Wards :													
Easington Lane ...	696	6,080	5,322	2,653	2,669	7.6	1,470	5,322	1,436	5,347	1.00	4.5	
Hetton Downs ...	740	6,354	5,028	2,521	2,507	6.8	1,432	5,028	1,423	5,342	0.94	3.4	
Hetton-le-Hole ...	1,359	8,126	5,565	2,714	2,851	4.1	1,649	5,554	1,625	6,186	0.90	4.1	
Rainton ...	1,756	—	2,589	1,298	1,291	1.5	686	2,589	680	2,434	1.06	11.8	
Houghton-le-Spring U.D. & C.P.	5,026	30,241	30,676	15,097	15,579	6.1	8,968	30,513	8,854	33,557	0.91	3.7	
Wards :													
Fence Houses ...	754	4,845	4,823	2,363	2,460	6.4	1,389	4,823	1,376	5,289	0.91	2.7	
Herrington ...	580	3,914	3,070	1,555	1,515	5.3	877	3,070	875	3,396	0.90	4.1	
Houghton ...	1,366	9,191	9,992	4,898	5,094	7.3	2,882	9,832	2,829	10,957	0.90	4.3	
Newbottle ...	1,258	5,165	4,362	2,146	2,216	3.5	1,322	4,359	1,302	4,828	0.90	4.8	
Penshaw ...	1,068	7,126	8,429	4,135	4,294	7.9	2,498	8,429	2,472	9,085	0.93	2.2	
Seaham U.D. & C.P.	2,469	27,325	26,142	13,169	12,973	10.6	7,185	25,730	6,723	25,510	1.01	4.8	
Wards :													
Central ...	51	3,960	2,475	1,215	1,260	48.5	807	2,475	650	2,371	1.04	10.9	
Colliery ...	1,277	7,866	6,403	3,133	3,270	5.0	1,680	6,213	1,648	6,489	0.96	3.2	
Dawdon ...	331	4,421	3,376	1,787	1,589	10.2	845	3,376	840	3,078	1.10	4.7	
Deneside ...	245	2,512	5,950	3,039	2,911	24.3	1,659	5,943	1,646	5,432	1.09	4.9	
North ...	103	2,158	1,018	502	516	9.9	291	1,013	291	1,113	0.91	2.8	
Princes ...	235	2,730	4,234	2,075	2,159	18.0	1,108	4,234	1,086	4,633	0.91	2.9	
Ropery ...	227	3,678	2,686	1,418	1,268	11.8	795	2,476	562	2,394	1.03	5.8	
Washington U.D. & C.P.	5,758	17,704	17,799	8,866	8,933	3.1	5,011	17,792	4,920	17,907	0.99	5.6	
Wards :													
Barnston ...	919	497	356	173	183	0.4	104	356	96	390	0.91	2.2	
Great Usworth ...	724	669	3,012	1,535	1,477	4.2	770	3,012	768	3,013	1.00	4.0	
Springwell ...	465	1,857	1,404	705	699	3.0	432	1,404	430	1,394	1.01	5.5	
Usworth Colliery ...	1,329	4,972	4,415	2,219	2,196	3.3	1,245	4,415	1,213	4,063	1.09	7.9	
Washington ...	1,647	4,206	3,722	1,834	1,888	2.3	1,046	3,722	1,036	3,769	0.99	5.0	
Washington Staiths	220	844	446	230	216	2.0	118	446	112	401	1.11	10.1	
Washington Station	454	4,659	4,444	2,170	2,274	9.8	1,296	4,437	1,265	4,877	0.91	4.3	
Sunderland R.D.	6,734	24,552	25,293	12,419	12,874	3.76	7,077	24,266	6,855	25,604	0.95	3.5	



Note.—Dwellings partly occupied by one household and partly vacant are treated in this Table as occupied by one household.

STRUCTURALLY SEPARATE DWELLINGS												NUMBER	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 or 9	10 or more	All	Occupied	Furnished	
	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms	Sizes			
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	
<b>DURHAM COUNTY</b> (A.C. with associated C.B.s)													
Total Dwellings occupied ...	1,898	42,569	102,117	139,709	81,528	20,985	8,444	4,894	1,270	403,414	1,597,878	1,312	
N'mber of Private Households therein	1,899	42,715	103,199	143,225	85,410	24,936	11,275	7,314	2,180	422,153			
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ...										828			
N.B.—The above section includes (a) 2 houseboats comprising 4 rooms occupied by 2 households; (b) 346 caravans comprising 531 rooms occupied by 346 households.													
<b>BOLDON U.D.</b>													
Total Dwellings occupied ...	19	529	1,266	1,314	1,281	384	160	87	24	5,064	20,945	4	
N'mber of Private Households therein	19	530	1,270	1,330	1,290	404	175	94	33	5,145			
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ...										6			
N.B.—The above section includes 10 caravans comprising 10 rooms occupied by 10 households.													
<b>HETTON U.D.</b>													
Total Dwellings occupied ...	15	668	1,501	1,801	971	133	33	35	7	5,164	19,309	6	
N'mber of Private Households therein	15	669	1,508	1,837	980	146	35	40	7	5,237			
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ...										3			
N.B.—The above section includes 5 caravans comprising 12 rooms occupied by 5 households.													
<b>HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING U.D.</b>													
Total Dwellings occupied ...	29	871	2,447	3,567	1,670	155	56	38	21	8,854	33,557	17	
N'mber of Private Households therein	29	872	2,466	3,611	1,685	171	63	42	29	8,968			
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ...										2			
N.B.—The above section includes 29 caravans comprising 74 rooms occupied by 29 households.													
<b>SEAHAM U.D.</b>													
Total Dwellings occupied ...	28	867	1,916	2,373	993	345	148	44	9	6,723	25,510	34	
N'mber of Private Households therein	28	868	1,924	2,420	1,066	452	312	105	10	7,185			
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ...										24			
N.B.—The above section includes 4 caravans comprising 10 rooms occupied by 4 households.													
<b>WASHINGTON U.D.</b>													
Total Dwellings occupied ...	23	540	1,654	1,951	593	81	45	31	2	4,920	17,907	2	
N'mber of Private Households therein	23	550	1,672	1,995	607	84	45	33	2	5,011			
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ...										1			
N.B.—The above section includes 13 caravans comprising 13 rooms occupied by 13 households.													
<b>SUNDERLAND R.D.</b>													
Total Dwellings occupied ...	26	921	1,919	2,595	1,047	210	69	46	22	6,855	25,604	12	
N'mber of Private Households therein	26	923	1,936	2,687	1,071	245	97	65	27	7,077			
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions housing non-private households ...										6			
N.B.—The above section includes 5 caravans comprising 6 rooms occupied by 5 households.													





**Table D.—PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS by DENSITY of OCCUPATION (Persons per Room).**

Notes.—(1) In this Table households sharing dwellings are classified according to the number of rooms occupied by each, regardless of whether the remainder of the dwelling is occupied by other persons.  
(2) Households occupying part of a dwelling, the remainder being vacant, are treated in this Table as households sharing dwellings.

Area	Households in All Dwellings at successive densities											Numbers of Households in Shared Dwellings at successive densities						Population in All Dwellings at successive densities		
	Numbers						Percentages													
	TOTAL	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1	1 or less	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1	1 or less	TOTAL	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1	1 or less	TOTAL	Over 3	3 & over 2
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u
DURHAM (A.C. with associated C.B.s)	422,153	2,101	10,374	33,974	74,253	301,451	0.5	2.5	8.0	17.6	71.4	34,074	1,067	2,899	5,110	5,958	19,040	1,435,467	13,182	65,640
<i>Urban Districts—</i>																				
Boldon .. ..	5,145	6	47	275	768	4,049	0.1	0.9	5.3	14.9	78.8	155	4	6	15	20	110	16,497	34	319
Hetton .. ..	5,237	23	115	416	1,079	3,604	0.4	2.2	7.9	20.6	68.9	147	12	19	27	25	64	18,493	142	842
Houghton-le-Spring	8,968	22	143	577	1,587	6,639	0.2	1.6	6.4	17.7	74.1	225	12	33	44	37	99	30,513	142	999
Seaham .. ..	7,185	19	172	764	1,625	4,605	0.3	2.4	10.6	22.6	64.1	799	9	53	124	217	396	25,730	107	1,122
Washington ..	5,011	29	134	539	1,058	3,251	0.6	2.7	10.8	21.1	64.8	183	22	37	50	17	57	17,792	148	856
<i>Rural Districts—</i>																				
Sunderland ..	7,077	12	110	533	1,463	4,959	0.2	1.6	7.5	20.7	70.0	412	6	24	69	100	213	24,266	82	766



## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

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### Water Supply.

(i) The supply of water in the Urban District was satisfactory generally, both in quality and quantity, although there have been a number of complaints about dirty water, on account of deposits from the mains. This has now been considerably rectified by flushing out the mains in the Houghton area, and by renovating the West Reservoir. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have now given approval for the Racecourse Estate Water Boosting Scheme, but it is now anticipated that the pump will not be installed for some months, owing to the slow rate of delivery. A new 4in. diameter gravitation main, being part of the scheme will be laid shortly, which it is hoped will slightly improve the supply to this part of the town.

(ii) Eight bacteriological examinations were made during the year and the results were very satisfactory. Samples were taken from both sources of supply, Houghton Colliery Standage Tank, and the intake at the Reservoir from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's bulk supply. Samples were also taken of the mixed water, as supplied to the town. In July samples were taken from the town mains at various places and both chemical and bacteriological examinations carried out. These reports indicated that the water was of organic purity but it contained a considerable amount of deposit consisting of carbonates and oxides of iron and manganese, some vegetable debris and living protozoa.

(iii) and (iv) The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and no counter measures were taken.

(v) Water is supplied to all houses throughout the area. There are no stand pipes in use.

### Housing.

172 houses were completed by direct labour and 2 were built by private enterprise. The types and location of the houses are shown in the attached schedule.

152 houses were of the traditional type and 20 built at Fence Houses were Unity Houses.

The number of houses in course of erection on the 31st December, 1953, was as follows:—

Council Houses.....	132
Private Houses .....	14

### **Closet Accommodation.**

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1953 was as follows:

Water Closets .....	9,530
Ash Closets .....	22
Privy Middens .....	2

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

The number of premises from which refuse is collected is approximately 9,468. These are divided into 8 districts of about 1,100 to 1,200 houses each. By reason of dual tenancy of many houses the actual number of occupiers is in excess of these numbers. Each team consists of a driver and two fillers but the ever increasing number of new houses on Council Housing Estates where the layout necessitates the addition of 50 to 60 yards' travel by the filler to collect and return his bins has meant that some teams are now overworked on these sites and a spare filler has to be employed one or two days a week in order that the collections are kept in hand. The foreman undertakes the collection of kitchen waste and most of the trade refuse in addition to his other duties. The present estimated cost is 30/- per house per annum, against a pre-war cost of 15/- per house per annum. There has been a large increase in the incidence of sickness this year, being 117 weeks' time lost as compared with 63 weeks' time lost in 1952. It should be stated, however, that in the 117 weeks lost 1 employee was absent on sick leave 12 weeks (and has since died) and another employee has lost 52 weeks, therefore excluding these two employees the nett time lost is 51 weeks, an actual decrease over the prior year of 12 weeks.

The disposal of scavenging refuse is presenting a large problem as Chilton Moor, Copt Hill and Sedgeleth tips are now nearing completion. Subsidence tips on farmers' land can only account for a very small amount of scavenging and consequently Coxgreen tip is having to take the refuse from the whole of the district and is steadily being filled in at a much greater rate than was anticipated. It is necessary that a tip be found nearer the Houghton districts to minimise increased costs and travelling time.



**Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector's Department  
during the year 1953.**

<b>1. Public Health Acts.</b>				<b>Number of informal written Notices by Inspector</b>	<b>Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority</b>	<b>Number of Nuisances abated after Notice</b>
Dw'ling-houses	}	Foul Conditions		6	...	6
and Schools		Structural Def'ts		84	...	78
		Overcrowding		1	...	1
Lodging-houses		...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops				..	...	...
Cowsheds		...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses		...	...	3	...	3
Slaughter houses		...	...	5	...	5
Ashpits and Privies		...	...	1	...	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure				8	...	5
Water Closets		...	...	20	...	18
Defective Yard Paving		...	...	1	...	1
		Defective Traps		4	...	4
House	}	No disconnection		...	...	...
Drainage		from sewers		...	...	...
		Other Faults		26	...	26
Water Supply		...	...	4	...	4
Pigsties		...	...	7	...	6
Animals Improperly Kept		...	...	...	...	..
Offensive Trades		...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances		...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances		...	...	...	...	...
Ash Bins		...	...	58	3	57
Totals	...	...	...	228	3	215

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	13	Chiefly meat, Public Slaughter House
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	40tons19cwt	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	...	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	36	
Samples found Adulterated ...	...	
III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	34	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	36	
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	...	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	...	
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	...	
IV. General.		
Number of New Houses erected during year	174	Council 172 P.E. - 2
Number of such Houses occupied during year ...	174	
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...	...	
Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets ...	...	
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ...	...	
Total number of Water-closets in District	9530	
Total number of Ash-closets in District...	22	
Total number of Ashpit-privies in District	2	

This Council has, during the past twelve months, supplied 66 bins in default. The galvanised bin is now available, the life being much longer than the painted sheet iron ashbin.

### **Salvage of Waste Materials.**

The salvage of waste paper and cardboard was recommenced in the latter part of the year and in order to guarantee that the salvage waste paper and cardboard was collected regularly a contract with Messrs. J. Ainsworth & Co. (Bolton) Ltd. was entered into, since when there has been no difficulty in the disposal of the collections. 15 tons of baled paper and cardboard were sent to these mills, the sum realized being £69 as against £383 in 1952, a decrease of £314.  $4\frac{1}{4}$  tons of scrap tins were collected from the scavenging tips, realizing £12.

The direction to salvage kitchen waste is still in operation in your district and entails collection and transportation to Sunderland. The collections for the past seven years have been as follows: 1946, 137 tons; 1947, 117 tons, 1948, 101 tons; 1949, 100 tons; 1950, 84 tons; 1951, 70 tons; 1952, 58 tons; 1953, 51 tons. Processed waste is still collected from the Sunderland Depot and delivered to those pig keepers in this district who require it—a charge being made for delivery. The following are details of the type and quantities of materials salvaged during the year: paper and cardboard, 15 tons; kitchen waste, 51 tons; tins,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  tons.

### **Housing Repairs.**

The high cost of labour and materials still retard the work of repairs and local contractors are loth to estimate for works specified under the Housing Acts. In other cases the main cause underlying the disrepair of much privately owned property is the resultant small income derived from the rents and so many small owners who previously maintained their property well, find themselves financially unable to do so.

### **Camping Sites.**

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

### **Schools.**

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be generally satisfactory. Some of the older types need to be re-planned when circumstances permit.

It has never been necessary to request that a School should be closed on account of infectious disease. Speaking generally, infectious cases have been distributed throughout the district.

### **Cinemas, Public Houses, and Halls.**

There are six cinemas in the district: Fence Houses, 1; Houghton, 3; Herrington Burn, 1; New Penshaw, 1.

These and other places of public entertainment were inspected during the year with respect to sanitary arrangements and generally speaking were found satisfactory.

Many of the licensed premises have had installed a supply of hot water, and in some cases, private bathrooms and other improvements to the sanitary accommodation were effected.

### **Eradication of the Bed Bug.**

The work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with either tenant or owner. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

	Infested		Disinfested
Number of Council Houses ...	6	...	6
Number of Other Houses ...	8	...	8

### **Prevention of Damage by Pests — Pests Act, 1949.**

99 cases of rat, mouse and other infestations were reported and dealt with during the year. Even though many of these reports were of a minor nature much of your Inspector's time was taken up with investigation, advice and treatment. One major infestation was successfully treated.



## Housing Conditions.

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### Housing Statistics for the Year 1953

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	933
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	1092
(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts ... ..	166
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	240
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	51
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	196

#### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	103
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#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

##### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	19
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ... ..	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

##### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	—
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—



**C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, and section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.**

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	13
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	1

**D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	38
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	—
By Owners	...	...	...	...	1

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**Housing Improvements Act, 1949.**

More advantage has been taken of this Act and improvements have been carried out to properties.

**Housing.**

172 houses were completed by direct labour, 2 were built by private enterprise. The types and location of the houses are shown on the attached table. 152 houses were of the traditional type and 20 were of the Unity type.

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1953	No. of Houses erected during 1953		No. of Houses in course of erection at 31st December, 1953		TOTAL
		Perm. Prefabs.	Trad. Perm.	Perm. Prefabs.	Trad. Perm.	
Newtown	82	...	...	...	...	82
North Rectory	60	...	...	...	...	60
Villa No. 1 and 2	246	...	...	...	...	246
Chilton Moor	168	...	...	...	...	168
Colliery Row	64	...	...	...	...	64
Hetton Road	308	...	...	...	...	308
Hall Lane	65	...	...	...	...	65
Race Course	460	..	6	...	16	482
Grange Estate	318	20	58	26	40	462
Sedgeleetch	20	...	...	...	...	20
Hillside	72	...	...	...	...	72
Homelands	184	...	...	...	...	184
St. Aidan's	138	...	...	..	...	138
Park Estate	268	...	...	...	...	268
Station Road	56	...	...	...	...	56
Chandler Row	9	...	...	...	...	9
Chester Road Estate	276	...	...	...	...	276
New Penshaw	40	...	...	...	...	40
Penshaw Hill	96	...	...	...	...	96
Barnwell	470	...	14	...	50	534
Success	46	...	...	...	...	46
Cellar Hill Estate	174	...	74	...	...	248
	3620	20	152	26	106	3924

## Inspection and Supervision of Food

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### **Milk Supplies.**

During the year 30 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and generally were found satisfactory. Samples of milk after pasteurization were also taken. The sterilizing and bottling plant of the Houghton-le-Spring Dairymen's Association situate in the Lake is working satisfactorily and practically the whole of the milk in the district is supplied in bottles or cartons. Samples of ice cream were also submitted for examination. Many small shops are now retailing ice cream which they purchase from the producer already wrapped and store in a refrigerating cabinet. Inspection of dairy farms is now undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture officials.

### **Central Slaughter House.**

The premises of the Co-operative Society Ltd., situate at Newbottle were taken over by the Ministry of Food and the carcasses of all animals slaughtered there have been examined by your Inspectors. The slaughter house serves for the Urban District of Hetton-le-Hole as well as for your own district.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Cattle, 2,703; Cows, 122; Calves, 257; Sheep and Lambs, 10,494; Pigs, 2,943; making a total of 16,219, all of which were inspected.

The results of inspections are contained in the following tables:

**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	2403	122	257	10494	2943
Number inspected ... ..	"	"	"	"	"
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	8	10	18	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	883	41	2	432	96
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than T.B. ...	37.34	40.18	4.67	4.27	3.63
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	17	12	—	—	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	422	39	—	—	197
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	18.44	41.82	—	—	6.83

**WEIGHT CONDEMNED (in Lbs).**

	Other Diseases			T.B.		
	Carcases	Organs	Parts	Carcases	Organs	Parts
Cattle— excl. Cows	3065	15561	5461	8937	13344	2059
Cows ...	3900	9887	1584	5819	7321	814
Calves ...	364	25	12	—	—	—
Sheep ...	727	2072	606	—	—	—
Pigs ...	2414	873	1006	1705	1002	847
	10470	28418	8669	16461	21667	3720

Total Weight Condemned ... .. 39 tons, 18 cwts., 1 qtr.



## Food and Drugs.

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### CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

There are 233 food premises in the area being :—

General Dealers	...	...	...	102
Fish Shops	...	...	...	40
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	30
Butchers	...	...	...	28
Confectioners	...	...	...	11
Chemists	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	4

There is one Dairy, owned by the Houghton Dairymen's Association and the number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream only is 71, being :—

General Dealers	...	...	...	52
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	7
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	4
Confectioners'	...	...	...	2
Cinemas	...	...	...	2
Baker and Confectioner	...	...	...	1
Greengrocer	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream Manufacturer	...	...	...	1
Colliery Canteen	...	...	...	1

Frequent inspections are made of all premises dealing with Food, and the general standard of hygiene is very good.

### Unsound Food.

Condemned food is disposed of for manufacture into manures and fertilizers, or if its unsoundness precludes such treatment it is destroyed. During 1953, on inspection, the following was found to be unsound :—

28 tins cooked ham, 40 tins luncheon meat, 14 tins tongue, 13 tins beef loaf, 6 tins pressed beef, 6 tins stewed steak, 5 tins jellied veal, 5 tins chopped pork, 5 tins rabbit, 54 tins other meats, 69 tins tomatoes, 36 tins beans, 10 tins peas, 58 tins other vegetables, 1 tin macaroni, 2 tins lobster, 1 tin crab, 6 tins other fish, 2 tins peaches, 5 tins pears, 15 tins cherries, 4 tins grapes, 7 tins oranges, 1 tin apricots, 42 tins prunes, 85 tins plums, 10 tins damsons, 1 tin gooseberries, 1 tin greengages, 138 tins other fruits, 3 jars jam, 1 jar marmalade, 2 tins orange juice, 4 tins mince-meat, 1 jar sandwich spread, 1 tin soup, 1 tin frozen eggs, 1 tin cream, 2 x 1 gallon tins whipped cream, 9 gallons synthetic cream, 6 tins peanut butter, 17 tins evaporated milk, 8½ lbs. cheese, 30 lbs. raisins, 11 lbs. cooked ham, 6 lbs. pressed beef, 6 lbs. chopped pork, 15 lbs. pork sausage, 36 lbs. beef sausage, 1,004 lbs. beef, 38 lbs. mutton, 27½ lbs. lamb, 85 lbs. pork, 40 lbs. kidney suet, ½ stone cod fillet.

### **Shellfish.**

There are no beds in the district.

### **Bakehouses.**

Although a considerable quantity of bread and flour confectionery is imported into the district quite an appreciable quantity is produced in this area. The premises generally are kept in a cleanly and sanitary condition and attention is given to the personal hygiene of persons employed.

### **Ice Cream.**

During the year 6 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and were satisfactory. Much of the ice cream consumed is imported (pre-packed) into the district and sold by small retail shops. It is the practice to insist on an electric refrigerator for storage in these cases and to ensure that the premises and personnel are clean.

### **Fried Fish Shops.**

The standard of cleanliness is well-maintained and in one establishment an all-electric range has been installed. Most of the ranges in the district are heated by coal. In most cases the assistants serving in these establishments are provided with white overalls and caps; a condition which we have sought to have included in the regulations.

**Shops.**

The inspection of slaughtered animal carcasses at the Government Slaughterhouse has not done away with the supervision of Meat and Prepared Meat Shops in the district and it is pleasing to say that any advice given to owners to improve the standard of cleanliness and hygiene of the premises is always well-received.

The standard of cleanliness throughout the district is high, particularly in food shops, and the proprietors are usually co-operative when suggestions are made to improve conditions in the shops.

**Canteens.**

The various canteens in which food is prepared for schools and factories are visited during the year, and a good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

## Factories.

The following are the principal places within your district:

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. N.E.S. Co. Electrical Power Sub-Station
4. Sunderland and District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing Works.
10. Builders Merchants.
11. Candle Making.
12. Bakeries.
13. Sugar Confectioners.
14. Clothing Factories.
15. Iron Foundry.
16. Motor Repair Shops.
17. Boot Repairs.
18. Cement Blocks.
19. Packing Cases.
20. Building Works.
21. Travelling Cases.
22. Electrical Accessories.
23. Woodwork Machinery.
24. Milk Pasteurization.
25. Pickles.
26. Light Engineering Works.
27. Furriers.

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.



**1.—Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	91	141	...	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	...	...	...	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	4	...	...
Total	95	145	...	...

**2.— Defects found.**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S3) ...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6) ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :				
Insufficient ...	2	2	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	...	...	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to outwork) ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	2	2	...	...

## Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

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During 1953 some 326 cases of infectious diseases (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, a decrease of 384 compared with the number of cases notified during 1952.

### Scarlet Fever.

16 cases were notified as against 42 in 1952 and of these 12 were isolated in hospital.

The case incidence was 0.51 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales being 1.39 per 1,000 civilian population.

### Diphtheria.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during 1953, as in 1952. A number of cases which were suspected of having diphtheria were removed to hospital and proved to be non-diphtheric. There were in 1953 no deaths in the district from this cause. Anti-toxin is available during office hours at the Public Health Department, Council Offices, Broadway, Houghton.

The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.00 as compared with 0.01 for England and Wales.

### Immunisation.

During 1953, 260 children under 5 years of age and 5 between 5 and 15 years were immunised and 97 were given a reinforcing injection.

It is extremely desirable that 75 per cent of all children in the area should be immunised and all efforts made to increase the numbers under 5 years of age. The County Council are carrying out propaganda with this in view. The importance of a boosting injection after three or four years must also be emphasised.

At the commencement of 1946 the County Council commenced free immunisation of children under 5 years of age at the Child Welfare Clinics but parents still have the option of having their children who are under five immunised by their family doctor or by the Child Welfare Medical Officer.

### **Influenza.**

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately, on a whole, of a mild character. 7 deaths were ascribed to this during 1953 as against 3 in 1952, and 11 in 1951.

There were 10 deaths ascribed as being due to pneumonia (some influenza pneumonia) as against 13 in 1952, whilst the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 19 as against 13 in 1952 and 15 in 1951.

### **Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas.**

Measles and Whooping Cough continued to be epidemic throughout the district in 1953. In 1953 there were 206 cases of measles and 62 cases of whooping cough notified as against 486 measles and 131 whooping cough in 1952.

During the year there were no deaths due to measles or whooping cough.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and the first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infections have been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of a rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value.

There were 2 cases of Erysipelas notified during the year, none of which required hospital treatment.

During 1952, 6 cases of erysipelas were notified.

### **Infantile Paralysis.**

During the year 1953, 2 cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area.

### **School Notification of Disease.**

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

### **Notifiable Disease during the year 1953.**

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.



**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1953.**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	16	12	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...
Enteric F. (incl. Paratyphoid)	1	1	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...
Pneumonia ...	19	...	10
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	1	...	...
Measles ...	206	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	62	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	...
Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...
Totals ...	309	15	10

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.



Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1953--Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.		
	At Ages—Years											Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington	Total				
	Total																				
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65									65 and over	
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	2	...	3	8	1	...	1	...	...	...	16	6	3	1	16	0.51			
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Pneumonia ...	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	2	3	3	6	...	19	4	...	...	19	0.61			
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	...	2	0.06			
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	6	...	2	1	6	0.19			
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	...	...	...	...	10	1	3	1	10	0.32			
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...			
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Measles ...	3	29	35	30	31	74	2	2	...	...	...	...	206	87	31	9	206	6.66			
Whooping Cough ...	6	7	10	11	7	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	19	32	...	62	2.00			
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	0.03			
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	0.06			
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Polio-Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.03			
Totals	11	39	48	43	41	108	4	8	10	4	10	...	326	121	90	45	58	12	326	15	...

### Case Rates for Infectious Diseases—Notifications per 1,000 Population.

Figures for England and Wales, 160 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns. Those for Houghton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	160 Smaller Towns Resident Pop'lations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census	Houghton Urban District
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	1.39	1.44	0.51
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.00
Enteric Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.14	0.13	0.06
Pneumonia ...	0.84	0.76	0.61
Measles ...	12.36	12.32	6.66
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0.03	0.03	0.00
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.38	2.00
Poliomyelitis ...	0.07	0.06	0.06
Polio-encephalitis ...			

### Tuberculosis.

No action was taken during 1953 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

### New Cases of Mortality during 1953.

16 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 6 males and 10 females were notified or came to notice during the year. No cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

The following table shows the notifications of Tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex, for the period 1943-1953.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1943	12	7	19	11	4	15
1944	21	17	38	21	15	36
1945	14	9	23	22	18	40
1946	15	13	28	9	9	18
1947	14	10	24	3	4	7
1948	12	21	33	5	2	7
1949	14	21	35	2	3	5
1950	11	18	29	3	3	6
1951	18	29	47	3	5	8
1952	9	11	20	2	2	4
1953	6	10	16	—	—	—

The following table shows the distribution of cases of tuberculosis notified in 1953 according to sex and wards.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Houghton	....	1	....	....	1
Penshaw	2	5	....	....	7
Newbottle	1	....	....	....	1
Fence Houses	2	3	....	....	5
Herrington	1	1	....	....	2
Totals ...	6	10	....	....	16

The following table shows the various age-periods for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 years	...	...	1	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
25 years	...	...	—	6	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 years	...	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 years	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	6	10	—	—	3	4	—	—

The figures in the death column are from locally compiled records.

### Occupation.

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 2 were miners, 4 were housewives, 1 under school age, 4 of unknown occupations, 1 a cadet nurse, and 1 a gym instructress and 3 of school age.

### Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patients or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

### Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

### Housing and Tuberculosis.

There is still evidence that a number of cases of tuberculosis are housed in poor conditions and that only too frequently sufferers from the pulmonary type are not occupying their own bedroom



or even bed. It is important for the sake of all the other inmates of the house as well as for the improvement of the patient's condition that every endeavour should be made to provide the patient with his or her own bed—unshared by any—better still, a room solely for the use of the patient. I am glad to know that the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council has been sympathetic in consideration of such families who are applicants for Council houses, but even then much remains to be done by these families to use the accommodation to the best advantage.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

FAECES							SWABS (THROAT, NASAL & EAR)						SPU-TUM	
	Enteric		Dysentery		Organisms		Diphtheria (Culture)		Diphtheria (Virulence)		Organisms		Tuberculosis	
	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.
1st Qr.	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	..	...	2	...	...	...
2nd Qr.	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	4	.
3rd Qr.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
4th Qr.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	..	2	...
	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	2	..	..	2	...	12	3

### Mass Radiography.

During the period 22nd June to 3rd July, 1953, a mass radiography survey was carried out in the urban area, in which a total of 1,469 persons, being 697 males and 772 females, were X-rayed. Of this figure 101 were recalled for a large film X-ray and only 2 of this number failed to attend.

From statistics rendered it was noted that 32 persons, 22 males and 10 females, were suffering from Non-Tuberculous conditions and 19 persons, being 10 males and 9 females, from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis.







